

# THE Farmington Times

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## Uncle John's Ash

REPORTS FROM THE  
WOODS SHOW THAT  
MORE DEER WERE  
KILLED THIS FALL THAN  
HUNTERS.



## GERMANY'S STROKE AT THE TREATY

The question of Germany's relationship to the rest of the world, and the relationship of the League of Nations to the Treaty of Versailles, is thrown wide open by the note sent from Berlin to Geneva, repudiating the section of the treaty which deals with the former German colonies. The issue is much larger than the disposition of the colonies. Germany's maneuver looks like an effort to drive a dagger into the vitals of the treaty, with the place of attack carefully chosen. The inspiration, without doubt, is America's failure to ratify the treaty. There is a certain degree of moral justification for the Berlin note, but let nobody doubt that Germany is taking advantage of this slight justification, in order to establish a precedent of treaty repudiation. The precedent, if established, can be utilized later to destroy other clauses and ultimately the whole document.

The Allies, who controlled the League of Nations council and distributed the mandates, violated the spirit of the League covenant when they apportioned the colonies. Not one desirable colony went to any nation outside the ranks of the Allies, nor was a single award made which ran counter to the interests of the nation most vitally concerned from a commercial or military standpoint. The Pacific islands north of the equator went to Japan because Japan had captured them and would have gone to war rather than give them up. The islands south of the equator went to Australia, logically enough, but the paramount consideration was the strategic position of those islands with reference to the British possessions. The African mandates were designed to cement British control of that continent.

Nations which received mandatory power over the German colonies on grounds of military and commercial self-interest will naturally take advantage of their opportunity to reap all the benefit they can. They will minimize their responsibility to the League of Nations, and come as near as possible to treating the mandated regions as part of their own realm. And the League council, in making awards on a basis false to the spirit of the covenant, weakens its power to hold the mandatory nations to account. Suppose, for instance, the league should undertake to shift mandates in the interest of the native population of one of these former German colonies? Having made the original award for the benefit of the mandatory instead of the natives, wouldn't it have a merry time putting the shift into effect?

But this gives Germany no warrant whatever for denouncing the articles of the Treaty of Versailles which deal with the colonies or with the mandates. Germany renounced all interest in her colonies, not to the league, but to the "Principal Allied and Associated Powers." There was not the slightest qualification of the absolute renunciation of German national interest in overseas territories. Article 118 says:

"In territory outside her European frontiers as fixed by the present treaty, Germany renounces all rights, titles and privileges whatever in or over territory which belonged to her or to her allies, and all rights, titles and privileges whatever their origin which she held as against the Allied and Associated Powers. Germany hereby undertakes to recognize and to conform to the measures which may be taken now or in the future by Principal Allied and Associated Powers in agree-

ment where necessary with third Powers, in order to carry the above stipulation into effect."

The disposition of the colonies was made more specific by Article 119, which says:

"Germany renounces in favor of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions."

Having absolutely and unqualifiedly renounced all her rights, titles and privileges in her former colonies, Germany has no more legitimate interest in the way the mandates are exercised than the United States has, or Brazil, or Norway. Germany cannot legitimately plead that there has been bad faith in depriving her of a voice in the distribution of the mandates, by keeping her out of the League of Nations. To make that plea is to claim a special position with reference to the colonies. The colonies themselves might charge bad faith, but for Germany to do so is to ignore the fact that she ever renounced her interest in them.

We have the old result, then, that Germany denounces the colony clauses of the Treaty of Versailles, virtually on the ground that she never admitted their validity in the first place.

If this can be done with one section of the treaty it can be done with the whole document—provided the Allies permit it. There was some German cleverness in choosing the colonies as a point of attack, because the colonies have been surrendered, and at the present time nothing is involved but an academic question. If the Allies undertake a reprisal, they will find themselves concerned merely with German words, not a German action or a refusal to act. So nothing really effective can be done, unless the Allies take this occasion to enforce compliance with other important sections of the treaty.

The German note was a bad blunder, if Germany expects to gain through it a place in the League of Nations. The advantage gained by showing that implied promises to Germany have not been carried out was lost by the manifest maneuver for the destruction of the treaty. The League of Nations, on its part, might profitably conclude that the less it has to do with the enforcement of the treaty, the better. And until the question of Germany's admission is settled one way or the other, the league's reply to the charge of bad faith should be the assertion of real sovereignty over the former German colonies. The mandate system should not be allowed to become a cloak for exploitation.—St. Louis Star.

## THE MATTER WITH BUSINESS

When a dam is thrown across a stream the current is checked, and gradually the accumulating water spreads out to the sides and to the rear, forming a still lake, without movement. This, in a very large degree, is the matter with business in America. Motion is essential to business. When movement stops, business stops. Any impediment to the free flow of commerce is a check to business, and the greater the impediment the more extended is business stagnation. The current has been too swift for safety for several years, and it has been necessary to put a restraining hand upon it in the interest of economic security. But that which prudence has advised in one direction has been injuriously applied by circumstances in another. Business has many channels, but across its main stream has been erected a great dam that checks the main flow and spreads its impeding influence into every artery of trade. That dam is not in America, but in Europe. There are, of course, many things the matter with business in this trying period of readjustment, but by far the most important thing is to be stated in one word—Europe. We quoted the other day the statement of Herbert Hoover that greater prosperity should begin to develop by spring, "provided the United States can get its exports moving." We are in the course of solving our internal problems, and our financial and productive situation is such that we can face the future with confidence, but we cannot reasonably expect the establishment of solid and really prosperous business conditions, speaking generally, in St. Louis or Jefferson City or anywhere else in America, until the European dam is removed and our exports are again moving freely.

For why? Because Europe is our chief customer, the chief consumer of our surplus products. Europe takes, all the time, when the way is open, an average of 65 per cent of our exports. Our shipments to Europe had grown from a little over \$1,000,000,000 in 1910 to over \$5,000,000,000 in 1919. That tremendous outflow has been checked by conditions across the Atlantic. We have the products, we have the goods, that Europe sorely needs and sadly wants, yet our ports are crowded with empty ships awaiting cargoes. The Shipping Board has withdrawn a large number of ships from service and tied them up in government yards for want of freight. That means loss to the farmer in Missouri, to the planter in Texas, and directly or indirectly, to business everywhere in the United States. Most business men recall the great slump in business immediately following the outbreak of the war. Commerce with Europe virtually ceased and the effect upon American business was instantaneous. Then Europe began to draw upon us for our products in rapidly increasing quantities, impelled by

the snarl of great necessity. At the same time, Europe having practically stopped production, other nations turned to us for supplies. Thus the extremities of Europe threw upon us the tremendous task of ministering to the world's needs, which we did, at a commensurate profit. The war ended, and Europe, spent, impoverished, with such money as it had greatly depreciated, and its credit seriously impaired, had to reduce its purchases, although in extreme need of food and of the materials with which to rebuild its shattered industries. Its low financial and productive state is the cause of the still growing decrease in our exports to the continent, the chief cause of the severe check to American business, and it remains the principal impediment to the establishment of healthful business conditions in this country.

Take, for example, the cotton situation. We have a great surplus of cotton. A large proportion of the crop has always gone to Europe, but she is now unable to buy in anything like the quantities she needs. In consequence, the price of cotton has gone down 50 per cent or more. The cotton planter must either hold his cotton or sell at a loss. In either case the local merchant suffers, for he is as dependent upon cotton as is the planter. The jobber with whom he deals loses trade, the manufacturer who supplies the jobber loses orders, the laborer in the mills loses work and pay, the shopkeepers who supply the laborers lose, and in turn set up another circle of losses, all because Europe is unable to buy cotton. So it is with wheat and copper, and in less degree with other products. The disability of Europe, directly or indirectly, affects the prosperity of every one of us. It is necessary to realize all this in order to understand how important it is to ourselves to aid in finding a solution for the financial problem of Europe, to help put it on its feet and in a renewed buying condition. It is not primarily a matter of altruism, though indeed Europe should have our help as well as our sympathy on that ground alone, but more impellingly it is a matter of supreme self-interest. We have to realize this, also, in order to understand how intimate and close our relations are with Europe at all times, a relationship it is impossible to withdraw from without disaster to ourselves. The currents of commerce must flow freely between America and Europe if business is to be sound here or there. How to restore this circulation is now our greatest problem.—Globe-Democrat.

## BRYAN'S SUGGESTION

Bryan's suggestion that Wilson resign, that Vice President Marshall appoint Harding Secretary of State, and then that Marshall resign also, automatically making Harding President at once, is not only a remarkable suggestion, but a sound, constructive, wholesome one.

At one stroke, Bryan's idea, if followed out, would get rid of the harmful rigidity of the American presidential election system, without any necessity of making troublesome changes in the constitution.

As Mr. Bryan says, the people have turned the administration down flat and cold, so why shouldn't the administration fold its tents and get out of the way as soon as possible? In England, if a mere majority of parliament wills it, the executive steps down and out. Well we've had an anti-administration congress for two years now; and now, at last, we've got a thumping big verdict from the people themselves, directly on the issue of the presidency.

And yet, unless Wilson and Marshall follow Bryan's suggestion—and the chances are a hundred to one they won't follow—we'll drag along for four months with an administration that has no popular support back of it.

President Wilson could achieve a great stroke of statesmanship, could set a splendid and long-needed precedent, if he were to step out now. His party could then even demand, if the congressional elections go Democratic two years from now, that Harding step out and let a Democrat step in. We would then be rid of the anomalous and absurd situation with which we are so often confronted, that of an executive and a legislative department deadlocked, and doing nothing but vituperating one another and wasting time and money.

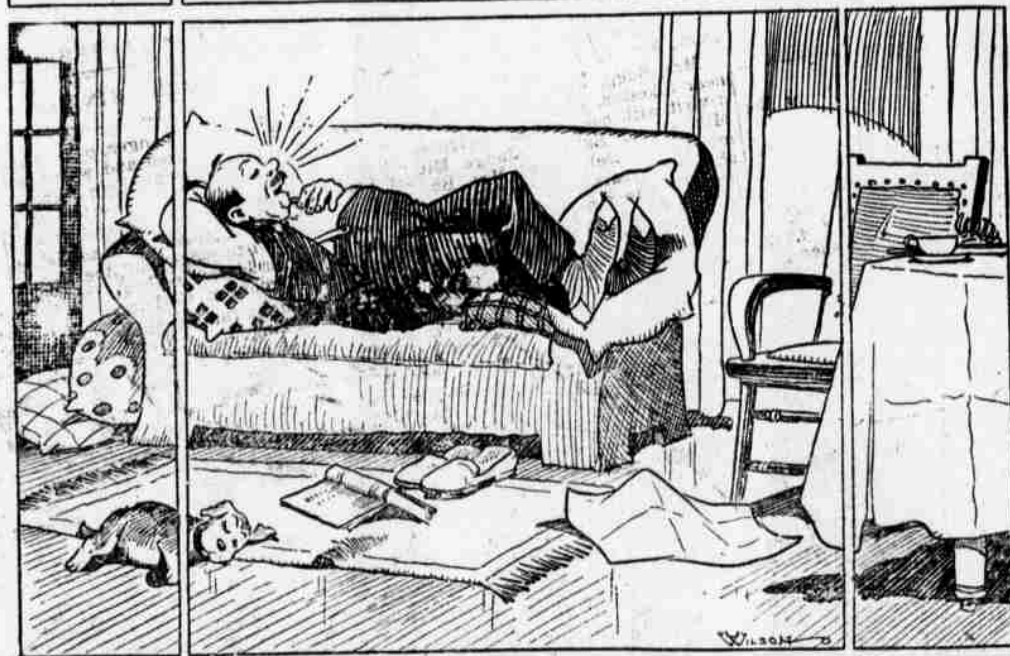
Bryan has made a mighty sound proposal, and we one should think of it as just a piece of freakishness. And coming as it does from a Democrat, it has added force, even though Bryan is not exactly a "Wilson Democrat."—San Jose, Calif., News.

## REPUBLICANS CAN'T AGREE ON LEADERS

Warm contests which threaten to split the "gop" legislative majority into two hostile factions, are on for leadership in the two branches of the Fifty-first General Assembly which convenes January 5, next. With Republicans in control of both houses the public interest lies chiefly in their plans. The question of minority leadership for the fifteen Democrats who will represent the "Only Reliable Party" in the Senate, and the thirty-five or forty partisans who will be in the House, will be easily and quickly settled without discord in early January just before the next Legislature gets together.

Hiram Lloyd, Lieutenant-Governor-elect, will preside over the Senate by virtue of his election to that exalted

## THANKSGIVING AFTERNOON



## BIG TEAM FROM SMALL TOWN WEEPS, PRAYS AND PLAYS



In the Bluegrass section of Kentucky, at the little town of Dansville is Centre College, with a football team which has attracted the attention of the nation in the last two years—first in victory—then in defeat. It is a team made up of earnest young men who weep, pray and play the game with every ounce of their energy. It took the mighty team from Harvard—to beat them, 31-14—the first time Centre's goal line had been crossed in three years. Since then the great southern champions, Georgia Tech, at Atlanta, Ga., beat them—but both great teams had to extend themselves to triumph.

## FOUR GREAT AMERICANS FROLIC FOR A DAY



When we hear of such men as Henry Ford, the automobile marvel; Thomas Edison, the electrical wizard; John Burroughs, the great naturalist, and Harvey S. Firestone, the great rubber king, having a reunion, we naturally think of splendid hotels and a large city as the site of their day-of-frolic together. Not so, however, with them, for the one day that they set aside each year is spent in the country. This year they all reported at Yama Farms Inn, at Napanoch, N. Y., where they cast aside all formalities and cares; forgot that they are really great men and romped in frolic like so many boys. They indulged in woodsplitting contests, telling yarns by the fireside and being just plain boys once more.

## GET DEFLATION ON STRAIGHT

Any lowering of prices in the general deflation that is generally demanded should have come and should come in all commodities proportionately. That's fundamental common sense. It is necessary to prevent disaster.

But it's not working out that way. Farm products have been slashed to the bone in almost all lines. In practically everything else the cuts, if any, have been moderate.

Wheat is off, far below the cost of production. But the loaf in town is the same old price and only an ounce heavier. Livestock is so low that many men are quitting the business. Meat in town is very little lower.

Potatoes and apples are cheap, wool is bid at next to nothing and hay is half or less than half of last year's price.

In return for these lower prices on the farmers' products the town is paying back in low-priced automobile tires and automobiles, but for the staples, such as clothing, shoes, medicines, money to lend and many other

things the cut is not at all, is very small or is mostly hot air.

## SPANISH COMB AGAIN



A charming embellishment of the coiffure with the fascinating old Spanish comb of tortoise shell which is again in vogue.

## HOME SWEET HOME

